

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An information delivery management apparatus for managing delivery status of information transmitted from a mobile communication terminal to another mobile communication terminal, comprising:

first storage means for storing delivery status data indicating whether said information has been delivered to the receiver mobile communication terminal or not;

second storage means for storing check permission data indicating whether a check of the delivery status data of information is permitted or prohibited, for every mobile communication terminal;

updating means for, in response to an update request sent from the outside of the apparatus when said information is delivered to the receiver mobile communication terminal, updating the delivery status data of undelivered status about the receiver mobile communication terminal, stored in said first storage means, to data of delivered status when the check permission data about the receiver mobile communication terminal, stored in said second storage means, indicates "permitted;" and

sending means for extracting said delivery status data stored in said first storage means, in response to a request from the sender mobile communication

terminal and sending said extracted delivery status data to said sender mobile communication terminal.

2. The information delivery management apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein when said check permission data about the receiver mobile communication terminal, stored in said second storage means, is "prohibited," said updating means, receiving said update request, updates said delivery status data of undelivered status stored in said first storage means, to data indicating that said check permission data is "prohibited."

3. The information delivery management apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein when said check permission data about the receiver mobile communication terminal, stored in said second storage means, is "prohibited," said updating means, receiving said update request, does not update said delivery status data about the receiver mobile communication terminal stored in said first storage means.

4. The information delivery management apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said second storage means stores said information, and

wherein after said sending means sends said delivery status data to the sender mobile communication terminal, said sending means retransmits said information to the receiver mobile communication

terminal on the basis of a retransmission command sent from said sender mobile communication terminal.

5        5.    An information delivery check system for checking delivery status of information sent from a mobile communication terminal to another mobile communication terminal, comprising:

mobile communication terminals of an information sender and an information receiver;

10        the information delivery management apparatus as set forth in Claim 1; and

15        a relay for relaying the information from said sender mobile communication terminal to send the information to said receiver mobile communication terminal and for sending the update request to the information delivery management apparatus when detecting delivery of said information to the receiver mobile communication terminal.

20        6.    An information delivery management apparatus for managing delivery status of information transmitted from a mobile communication terminal to another mobile communication terminal, comprising:

25        first storage means for storing delivery status data indicating whether said information has been delivered to the receiver mobile communication terminal or not;

receiving means for receiving check permission

data indicating whether a check of said delivery status data of the information from the receiver mobile communication terminal is permitted or prohibited, every time information is delivered;

5 updating means for, in response to an update request sent from the outside of the apparatus when said information is delivered to the receiver mobile communication terminal, updating the delivery status data of undelivered status about the receiver mobile communication terminal, stored in said first storage means, to data of delivered status when said check permission data received by said receiving means indicates "permitted;" and

10 sending means for extracting said delivery status data stored in said first storage means, in response to a request from the sender mobile communication terminal and sending said delivery status data to said sender mobile communication terminal.

15 7. The information delivery management apparatus according to Claim 6, wherein when said check permission data is "prohibited," said updating means, receiving said update request, updates said delivery status data of undelivered status stored in said first storage means, to data indicating that said check permission data is "prohibited."

25 8. The information delivery management apparatus

according to Claim 6, wherein when said check permission data is "prohibited," said updating means, receiving said update request, does not update said delivery status data about the receiver mobile communication terminal stored in said first storage means.

9. The information delivery management apparatus according to Claim 6, wherein said second storage means stores said information, and

wherein after said sending means sends said delivery status data to the sender mobile communication terminal, said sending means retransmits said information to the receiver mobile communication terminal on the basis of a retransmission command sent from said sender mobile communication terminal.

10. A mobile communication terminal capable of receiving information from another mobile communication terminal, which is capable of communicating with information delivery management apparatus having first storage means storing delivery status data indicating whether said information has been delivered or not, said mobile communication terminal comprising:

check permission determining means for determining check permission data indicating whether a check of said delivery status data of the information

is permitted or prohibited, every time information is delivered; and

transmitting means for transmitting said check permission data determined, to said information delivery management apparatus.

11. An information delivery check system for checking delivery status of information sent from a mobile communication terminal to another mobile communication terminal, comprising:

a mobile communication terminal for transmitting information;

the mobile communication terminal as set forth in Claim 10, for receiving the information;

the information delivery management apparatus as set forth in Claim 6; and

a relay for relaying the information from said sender mobile communication terminal to send the information to said receiver mobile communication terminal and for sending the update request to the information delivery management apparatus when detecting delivery of said information to the receiver mobile communication terminal.

12. An information delivery check method for checking delivery status of information transmitted from a mobile communication terminal to another mobile communication terminal, comprising:

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a step of storing delivery status data indicating whether said information has been delivered to the receiver mobile communication terminal or not, in first storage means of information delivery management apparatus comprising the first storage means, second storage means, updating means, and sending means;

a step of storing check permission data indicating whether a check of the delivery status data of the information is permitted or prohibited, for every mobile communication terminal is the second storage means;

a step of transmitting an update request for said delivery status data when a relay for relaying the information from the sender mobile communication terminal to send the information to the receiver mobile communication terminal, detects that said information has been delivered to the receiver mobile communication terminal;

a step of, in response to said update request, letting said updating means update the delivery status data of undelivered status about the receiver mobile communication terminal, stored in said first storage means, to data of delivered status when said check permission data about the receiver mobile communication terminal stored in the second storage means is "permitted;" and

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a step of letting said sending means extract said delivery status data stored in said first storage means, in response to a request from the sender mobile communication terminal and send said extracted delivery status data to the sender mobile communication terminal.

13. An information delivery check method for checking delivery status of information transmitted from a mobile communication terminal to another mobile communication terminal, comprising:

a step of storing delivery status data indicating whether said information has been delivered to the receiver mobile communication terminal or not, in first storage means of information delivery management apparatus comprising the first storage means, second storage means, updating means, and sending means;

a step of, when the receiver mobile communication terminal receives said information from a relay, requesting to make a decision on check permission data indicating whether a check of said delivery status data of the information is permitted or prohibited;

a step of letting said receiver mobile communication terminal transmit said check permission data determined, to said information delivery management apparatus;

a step of transmitting an update request for said



delivery status data to said information delivery management apparatus when the relay for relaying the information from the sender mobile communication terminal to send the information to the receiver mobile communication terminal, detects that said information has been delivered to the receiver mobile communication terminal;

a step of, in response to said update request, letting said updating means update the delivery status data of undelivered status about the receiver mobile communication terminal, stored in said first storage means, to data of delivered status when said check permission data determined at said receiver mobile communication terminal is "permitted;" and

a step of letting said sending means extract said delivery status data stored in said first storage means, in response to a request from the sender mobile communication terminal and send said extracted delivery status data to the sender mobile communication terminal.